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Nixon Wanted Early Thrust At Cuba, 2 Writers Say

N. Y. Times News Service
Washington, June 2—Former Vice President Richard M. Nixon wanted the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba to take place before the Nov. 8, 1960, presidential election, two Washington newspapermen have reported in the current issue of Look magazine.

The authors, David Wise and Thomas B. Ross, said that "one of Nixon's top campaign aides" privately confirmed that Nixon had expressed such a view.

"He explained," they declared, "that Nixon was hoping for the invasion before Nov. 8 because 'it would have been a cinch to win' the election if the Eisenhower Administration destroyed Fidel Castro in the closing days of the presidential campaign."

Crushed by Castro

The invasion, by Cuban ex-

iles supported through the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency, was planned during the Eisenhower Administration but took place during the tenure of President John F. Kennedy, who defeated Nixon in 1960.

The invasion was crushed by Cuban Premier Fidel Castro's forces.

During the campaign, Kennedy publicly proposed that the United States support a rebellion in Cuba, while Nixon pretended to oppose it, the writers said.

Nixon subsequently explained in his book, "Six Crises," that he felt Kennedy had endangered the security of the invasion plan after learning of it in an intelligence briefing arranged by President Eisenhower. Nixon said he therefore felt obliged to attack a plan he privately supported.

Kennedy had been briefed on

July 23 and Sept. 19 by Allen W. Dulles, then director of the CIA. Dulles later denied having made the invasion scheme known to Kennedy.

Reports Got Out

But the Kennedy forces in the campaign "were receiving persistent and disturbing reports that some kind of Cuban exile operation was in the works," Wise and Ross wrote.

The Nixon forces did not know exactly how much Kennedy knew of the invasion plan, but "they certainly did not want the Democratic candidate to benefit from an invasion that might be launched by a Republican president," they wrote.

Wise is chief of the Washington bureau of the New York Herald Tribune and Ross is a member of the Washington bureau of the Chicago Sun-Times.